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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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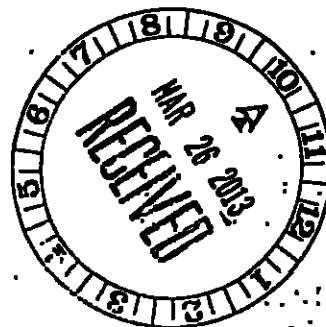
March 20, 2013

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

MAR 26 2013

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Public Record



Re: Diana Del Grosso, et al.--Petition for Declaratory Order
Finance Docket No. 35652

Dear Ms. Brown,

I am a member of the House of Representatives for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. My district includes the Town of Upton. I am familiar with the Grafton & Upton Railroad ("G&U") and its transloading yard and operations in Upton.

I am aware of proceedings that are pending before the Board in which several residents of the Town of Upton are opposing G&U's operations at the transloading yard. I am writing in support of G&U, which, as described below, has been a good corporate citizen of the Town of Upton and has provided new jobs and economic growth for the benefit of the town and all of its residents.

The site of the G&U transloading yard was formerly used by the Town of Upton as a town landfill. In connection with G&U's agreement to purchase the property, the site is being cleaned up and remediated in accordance with plans approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. This work is being done at a substantial savings to the Town.

In addition to the environmental remediation work, G&U has built earthen berms along the Depot Street side of the yard, which is where the petitioners in this proceeding have homes. In addition to the berms, G&U has installed screened fencing and over 60 evergreen trees in order to buffer the Depot Street neighborhood from the transloading yard. G&U has also discontinued trucking on Depot Street, which had formerly been used for over 100 years to move coal and other commodities from the rail line to ultimate destinations.

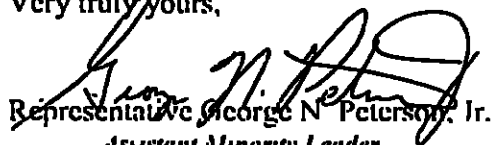
Sincerely,

George N. Peterson, Jr.

G&U has worked very closely and cooperatively with the Town Manager, the Board Selectmen and the Board of Health of the Town of Upton. In addition to improving the overall aesthetic quality of the transloading yard and the adjacent neighborhood, G&U has undertaken other improvement projects in Upton, such as repaving most of the grade crossings in cooperation with the Town Manager and the Department of Public Works of Upton

Significantly, G&U and its transloading contractor have provided and continue to provide tax revenue, new jobs and growth in vital interstate transportation services for the benefit not only of the Town of Upton and its residents, but also for residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and New England. I believe it is important to permit G&U to continue to operate its yard in Upton under the privilege of preemption which the railroad enjoys.

Very truly yours,


Representative George N. Peterson, Jr.
Assistant Minority Leader